

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, SN

SUBJECT: ASEAN NARCOTICS COOPERATION

REF: A. STATE 186592 B. SINGAPORE 3319

1. DEPARTMENT AGREES THAT SINGAPORE IS ADVANCED IN BOTH THE TREATMENT/REHABILITATION AND CUSTOMS CONTROL ASPECTS OF NARCOTICS CONTROL. FOR PURPOSES OF OUR COOPERATION WITH ASEAN AS A GROUP, HOWEVER, WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO FIND WAYS IN WHICH EACH COUNTRY CAN PARTICIPATE IN AND CONTRIBUTE TO REGIONAL DRUG SUPPRESSION EFFORTS.

2. WE HAVE TENTATIVELY CHOSEN MALAYSIA AS A LOCALE FOR POSSIBLE ASEAN DEMAND REDUCTION PROJECTS FOR TWO REASONS:

(1)THE GOM HAS RECENTLY DEMONSTRATED A STRONG INTEREST IN THIS AREA AND HAS REQUESTED USG ASSISTANCE; AND (2)
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THERE ARE QUALIFIED MALAYSIANS IN THE GOM AND THE SAINS UNIVERSITY WHO HAVE TECHNICAL EXPERTISE IN THIS FIELD. THIS PROJECT SHOULD HELP TO FURTHER FOCUS MALAYSIAN EFFORTS IN TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION. WE RECOGNIZE THAT SINGAPORE IS FURTHER ADVANCED AND HOPE THAT THE GOS WILL SEND ITS EXPERTS TO ASSIST WITH ANY REGIONAL PROJECTS IN MALAYSIA.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, MALAYSIA IS NOT ADVANCED IN CUSTOMS CONTROL AND SUFFERS FROM PROBLEMS OF POOR INTRA-GOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION IN ENFORCEMENT. THE GOM, WE BELIEVE, WOULD HAVE SOME DIFFICULTY PLANNING, ORGANIZING AND EXECUTING A SUCCESSFUL PROJECT IN THIS AREA. SINGAPORE STILL SEEMS TO BE THE BEST LOCALE FOR A PROJECT IN THIS AREA.

4. WE DO NOT CONSIDER THE THINKING CONTAINED IN THIS ISSUES PAPER TO BE FINAL OR INFLEXIBLE. WE WILL CONSIDER ANY SOUND PROJECTS PUT FORWARD BY THE ASEAN STATES, AS A GROUP OR INDIVIDUALLY. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT OVER TIME IT MAY PROVE TO BE MORE PRODUCTIVE TO MOVE SOME PROJECTS (SUCH AS SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING COURSES) FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY, WHILE ASEAN CENTERS OR COORDINATING ORGANS IN PARTICULAR AREAS REMAIN OFFICIALLY LOCATED IN ONE OF THE FIVE COUNTRIES. CHRISTOPHER

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